## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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R. A. WELLS, FWS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION DIES

Robert Alan Wells, Director of the Office of Information of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, and well known in the Eastern States as a conservationist, died at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, on February 22, 1962. He was 57 years old. Death was due to a heart attack.

Mr. Wells had been with the Fish and Wildlife Service since November 1955. His first appointment was assistant to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Following the reorganization under the 1956 legislation, Mr. Wells became Director of the Office of Information.

He came to the Service after spending eight years, 1946-1954 as Secretary of the New York Conservation Department. For activities in that position he received the Charles Banks Belt award for "initiating a widely influential program of waterfowl management which had beneficial effect upon the resources of the Atlantic Flyway." He was a former chairman of the Joint Black Duck Committee and the Joint Waterfowl Committee. He was also vice-chairman of the National Waterfowl Council.

Mr. Wells was born in Watertown, New York, June 19, 1905. He was a graduate of Watertown High School and attended Cornell University. He spent 21 years with the Watertown Daily Times and for some years was State Editor of that paper.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ethel P. Wells and two children, Robert Wells, Jr., of Watertown, New York, and Mrs. Susanne Clement of Akron, Ohio, and two step sons, M. Thomas Seagears and Murray W. Seagears, both of Arlington, Virginia.

Interment will be in Delmar, New York, February 26.